

THE LONG FELT WANT.

Bill Nye's Experience in Tying
with a Daily Paper.

A Spirited Contest with a Formida-
ble Rival—Victory at Last—
The Moral of
It All.

[Bill Nye in Detroit Free Press.]
Robert J. Burdette, having related his
experience with a young and struggling daily,
I move that other brethren present relate
their own little history. I think it is some-
times a relief to unburden the soul by a con-
fession.

I toyed with a daily once which was incor-
porated to fill a long felt want. I did not
know it was loaded. There was a rival daily
that had been running two years, and we en-
tered the arena, hoping to win an easy vic-
tory over this paper and become a great
power in the west. We made it our
business to boom every thing that was
boonable and to sneer at the lack of
enterprise of our adversary. We got
specials by mail, press reports by slow
freight, and showed a style of fearless enter-
prise that was the envy and the admiration
of many large metropolitan journals. We
thought that our adversary wouldn't last
more than a month after election, but
Thanksgiving came and found The Evening
Squawker still on deck. The editor would
come and borrow print paper of us and then
use it to call us the slime bedecked and putrid
exponent of a still more baneful political
faction. We would borrow a font of brevier
of him and characterize his paper as the
wailing foundling, dying in the poisonous
vapors of the deadly swamp of political filth,
wherein it had chosen its bed, edited by the
bitter foe of the laundress and Lindley
Murray, a man who had evaded justice for
forty years, and not content with the out-
rage of all moral sense, had declared war on
the spelling book.

Thus we kept up a spirited contest for a
long time. Sometimes we couldn't get our
paper out of the freight office, and sometimes
he couldn't, but we would loan each other
the last quire we had and keep friendly,
while through the columns of our respective
papers we spoke of each other in language
which might have been constructed as re-
proachful to some people.

It was an exciting time. One day The
Squawker would offend a subscriber, and he
would come over to us, and the next day we
would unwittingly tread on the toes of one
of our great army of subscribers, and he
would go over to the enemy.

The editor of the other paper and myself
saw that it was going to be a war of exter-
mination. We ground our teeth and our
shears and sailed in. At the end of the first
year he had discharged his servant girl and
my paper owed me \$800 salary. At the end
of the second year he had blown in his fine
brick residence and I had taken my salary
as police justice and thrown it into the ra-
pacious maw of my little hungry long felt
want.

One day the little, muddy, measly, long
suffering features of The Evening Squawker
failed to appear. We kept asking the office
boy why The Squawker didn't come. He
didn't know. Finally he went to the publica-
tion office. The door was locked. A map
of Dakota was hung over one window and a
printer's towel over the other. The office
boy raised the map and stole in. The uncer-
tain light here and there broke in straggling
rays through the threadbare places in the
towel. On the desk lay a letter from the ad-
vertiser of a Colic Eraser in which he offered
to take a column in The Squawker a year,
following pure reading matter and with
2,000 lines of reading notices to be strung
along through editorials from day to day, in
bold-faced type, and in consideration there-
for to furnish for two years to the editor, or
his order, fifty bottles of the Colic Eraser at
publisher's price, delivered on board the
cars.

Everything about the office showed that
the work had been going bravely on when
the summons came. In fact the summons
lay there on the desk among other papers,
along with a writ of attachment for \$253.85.
This shows what a hold a paper gets on its
subscribers and also what a hold the sub-
scriber gets on the paper. The sheriff had
been a subscriber to the Squawker ever since
it started, but we didn't know his attach-
ment for the paper was so great.

We won the day, but at what a sacrifice.
The smoke of conflict cleared away and
showed that the victory was not worthy of
the carnage. We had survived, but we were
not proud. The Squawker had fought us
bravely, and now its still, cold form lay
in the basement of the chief creditor, and the
usual notice of attachment was tacked on the
door.

The editor and myself met on the following
day, and he was the more cheerful of the two.
He said he felt sorry for me. "I can use what
I get hereafter on my family," said he; "but
you can't. You will feel guilty if you buy a
barrel of flour for your own use, knowing
that it may imperil the next issue of the
paper. I have passed all that." And he was
right. The quicker a man decides to cease
publishing a daily paper where it is not
needed, just simply through a high moral
sense of duty, the sooner he will become
light-hearted and joyous. I paid \$2,000 for
the privilege of knowing this, and I present
it to every paid-up subscriber of The Free
Press without money and without price. I
don't know very much, but if there's any-
thing I do know, and know it hard, and
know it with one hand tied behind me, it is
that.

Bill Arp: Money is a right good thing
and no sensible man will turn up his nose
at it. Money brings comfort and pleasures,
and Solomon says in leisure there is
wisdom.

The Kamschatkans are rapidly dying
off.

Bougart: A happy jest often gives
birth to another; but the child is seldom
worth the mother.

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Fire Insurance of all descriptions
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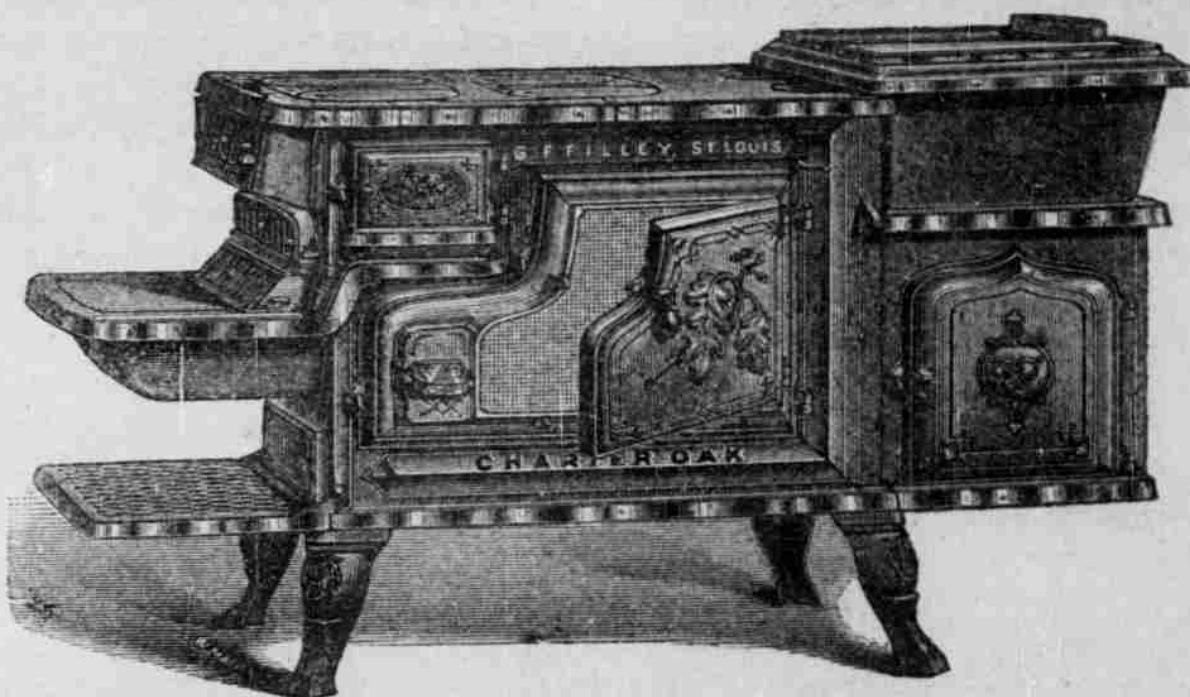
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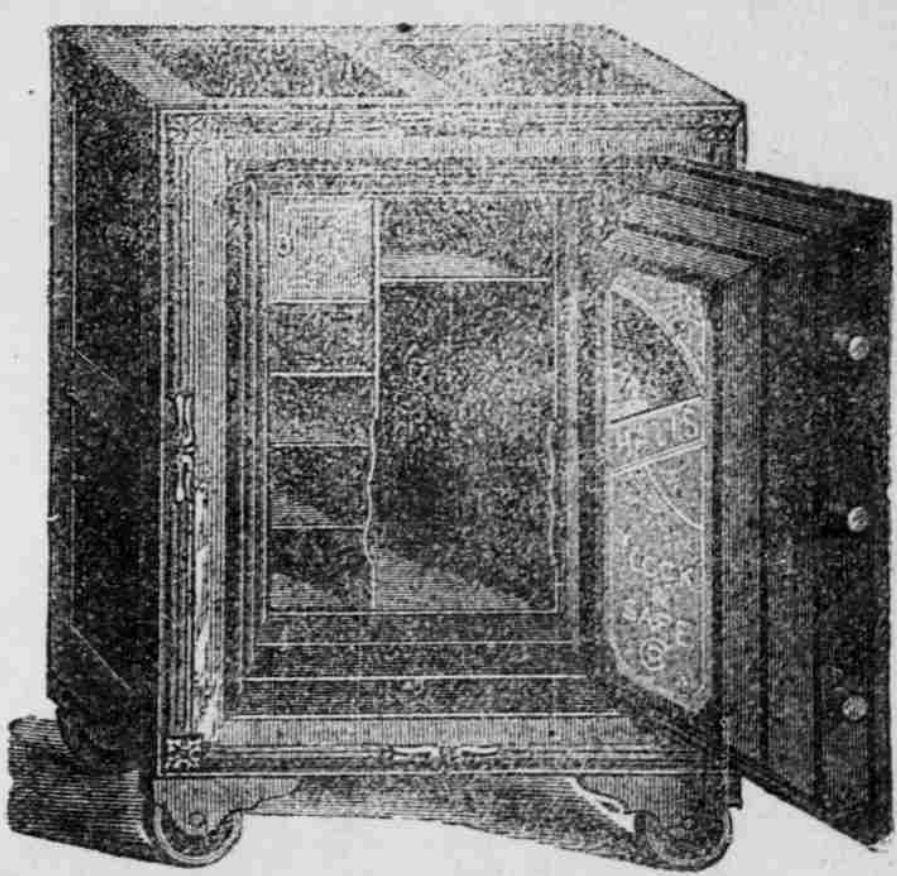
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